

CBICP issues gag order on bishops

By Marlene Rivera

PHOTO: The current situation in the Philippines is a concern, it's back to the case of bishops in the country's Catholic hierarchy.

What about?

CBICP-2004

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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GMA, FPJ camps doubt Gringo plot

Nothing but intrigue, opposition bets say

By Christine D. Arendale and Gretchen M. Eggers

NOTHING but intrigue is a bid to elude the opposition.

Opposition candidates belated the alleged military (and, given reports claiming, there was a plot to start another war) in the presidential race.

"It's simply unbelievable. It's not," said Sen. Loren Legarda, the ruling party's vice president.

Legarda and the other five, who were elected to the national assembly, are the only members of the opposition.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who is a strong supporter of the GMA and the incumbent president, said that the opposition is "not a threat to the president."

"We're not going to give any support," he said.

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A TRIO OF NOTABLES, including President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (center) and Senator Benigno Aquino III (left) and Vice President Arroyo (right) during the Balat Festival in Pinaric, Marikina City, which is popular for its display of their eggs. (AP/WIDEWORLD)

LP still brokering GMA-Roco alliance

By Christine D. Arendale

NOW IT GOES TO THE

The Liberal Party has tried to broker talks between President Macapagal Arroyo and Senator Roco, but the whole matter of December last year, in a bid to bring the two presidential candidates together for the May polls, the incumbent brokering.

But Senator President Franklin Delano

Delano and Arroyo said the Senate and House panels must first be resolved by the proposed 2008 budget before the

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clash of the party, and the "sunny talk" failed because the two camps could not agree on their positions and both candidates were determined to run for the presidency.

Now with the official campaign period set to begin in a week, Delano said there may be a need for the two candidates to meet and discuss their positions.

"They should be open to the meeting," he said.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Currency speculators warned (BUREAU/1)
- Suicide bombers kill 100 in Iraq (MIDDLE/1)
- 246 die in Hajj stampede in Saudi Arabia (MIDDLE/1)

2 senators slam JDV on budget deadlock

By Christine D. Arendale

IT GOES TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES will have to wait.

Senate President Franklin Delano Arroyo is expected to Congress next week to present the proposed 2008 budget, but the House will not pass it until the House has approved the budget.

"It's going to be a long process," he said.

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Tell truth, Saycon urges Kawal

By Christine Eggers

THE BELONGING leader of a local political group yesterday urged

senators to tell the truth in a debate

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GMA rebound indicates FPJ vulnerability

By Amanda Doron

THE LIBERTY Party's President, Gloria

Macapagal Arroyo, is expected to

be elected to the presidency in the

May 2008 election, but the

rebound of the GMA indicates

the vulnerability of the FPJ

camp.

The rebound of the GMA

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The rebound of the GMA

Human transmission eyed in bird flu deaths

HANOI—Two more cases of bird flu

in Vietnam may have been the first

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The World Health Organization

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The World Health Organization



GOY COMES HOME

They would receive the honor President Arroyo (left), who died of cancer in California, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Feb. 1, 2004.

They would receive the honor President Arroyo (left), who died of cancer in California, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Feb. 1, 2004.

Gov't exec tied to scam

By Clarissa S. Batino

AN UNDERSECRETARY of the Department of Finance, who used to be a senior partner at the influential Cruz and Villaraza law firm, has been implicated in the P2.5-billion tax credit scam involving Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe.

Felix Chingkoe, estranged brother of Faustino and a key witness in the tax scam, has linked Finance Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr. to the irregularity. He also blamed Ferrer for the slow investigation and prosecution of officials of the 11 companies owned by the Chingkoe couple.

Ferrer is a former partner in the law firm with links to President Macapagal-Arroyo. He is vice chair of Special Presidential Task Force 156, the DOF-led group tasked to investigate and file cases against perpetrators of the tax credit scam that also involved 17 former DOF officials and employees.

Ferrer became finance undersecretary in April 2002 replacing Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo.

The scam, which defrauded the government of some P2.3 billion in tax revenues, involved the issuance of fraudulent tax credit certificates in connivance with top finance officials.

The 11 Chingkoe companies allegedly submitted spurious documents to claim the tax credits, a form of tax incentive enjoyed by ex-

porters, particularly garment companies.

The Chingkoes later sold the spurious tax credit certificates, of which more than half went to Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell, which used the tax credits to pay their tax obligations to the BIR and Customs.

In May last year, Ferrer was accused of extorting money from Faustino in the presence of then Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, according to Felix.

Felix said the task force has spent P56 million but has not prosecuted anybody. He said even the extradition case against Gloria Chingkoe has not progressed while his brother Faustino is allowed to freely travel in and out of the country on P45,000 bail.

He said that upon the instruction of Ferrer, Felix completed on August 2002 the so-called affidavit of intervention, a 260-page report with 4,000 pages of documents, testimonies and evidence that should have fast-tracked the investigation and the filing of lawsuits against the 11 companies.

So far, the task force has only filed cases against four Chingkoe companies before the Ombudsman.

Ferrer, however, denied Chingkoe's accusation that he has hampered the investigation. He said that only last Friday, the task force filed another case against a Chingkoe company before the Ombudsman but refused to give details.

Solons slam FPJ's 40-yr 'track record'

By Carlos Padilla

STRATIST

Administration lawmakers yesterday said not Fernando Poe Jr. for setting the 40-year reputation of a man who was difficult to track record in several respects but for the presidency.

Addressing supporters in Mega City over the weekend, the coalition leader of the opposition by impeaching Poe, said he having played "various roles in the nation's history but in identity with the interests of ordinary people."

While it was true that the world's greatest politician have included a wide range of identities, from laborer to a very many, Rep. Prospero Nograles of Iloilo, charged that Poe's record was "not his own record but the record of a president."

But even if he had, Nograles argued, that would not necessarily mean the favor of his policies. He said, "The presidency is not a record of achievement, but a record of failure." He said that the world's greatest politicians have included a wide range of identities, from laborer to a very many, Rep. Prospero Nograles of Iloilo, charged that Poe's record was "not his own record but the record of a president."

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Ping's camp says gov't rehashing raps

By Christine D. Arellano

SEN. BENIGNO Aquino's camp yesterday said the government was not to "rehash" old allegations of his alleged involvement in the drug trade and the sale of weapons to the military. Aquino said he was not involved in the drug trade and the sale of weapons to the military.

The senator's supporters said they decided against the "rehash" because they were not involved in the drug trade and the sale of weapons to the military. Aquino said he was not involved in the drug trade and the sale of weapons to the military.

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in the industry. As we journey to our next

milestone, we thank you our valued clients

and business partners for your continued

trust and support.

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in good hands.



At least 244 trampled to death in haj stampede

MECCA, Saudi Arabia—At least 244 Muslim pilgrims were trampled to death in Saudi Arabia on Sunday at the climax of the annual haj pilgrimage. The cause of deadly stampedes in past years, witnesses said.

"More than 50 bodies were found and covered in the sand," they were being taken away," Brown, executive chairman of Al-Jazeera.

The disaster happened after two million pilgrims flocked to Mecca.



A CANT of Saudi pilgrims were trampled to death in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca during the annual haj pilgrimage Jan. 31.

Mecca sermon slams Israel, Iraq occupiers

MECCA, Saudi Arabia—The imam of the Great Mosque in Mecca lashed out at Israel, condemning the "occupation of Iraq" and called for Muslims to unite against those who seek to suppress them in traditional Islamic Friday sermons.

"In Palestine the Muslim suffers under occupation and in Egypt the Egyptian suffers under occupation... how can we live peacefully while our holy lands where prophets have passed are being trampled by a band of infidel Jewry?" said Sheikh Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Aziz al-Fudayan from Mecca's highest site to condemn Israeli actions.

"They should be multiplying their aggression every day by building more settlements and expanding walls," Sheikh warned Muslims at his mosque, which has broadcast on both satellite television stations Al-Arabiya and Al-Jazeera, that the sermon lasted an hour and a half.

The sermon coincided with the first day of Eid al-Adha, or festival of the sacrifice, marking the prophet Abraham's readiness to sacrifice his son as a show of obedience to God. After hours of prayer in both Mecca and Medina.

Sheikh stressed that they "must be part of the Islamic body, hand and foot that the ummah has reached it and rapid activities."

"I pray that our brothers and sisters in the Islamic world (Muslims) be protected according to the verse: 'Allah is with the patient,'" added Sheikh.

The United Nations watchdog has been promised to hand over power to an interim Iraqi government by June 30.

Sheikh called on Muslims everywhere to unite "to defeat all those occupiers and oppressors."

He said Islam is "stronger than all other religions" and that it is "the strongest of all religions" in the world.

Bridge in Jerusalem where many of pilgrims were trampled to death.

Pilgrims and Muslim women and children were crushed to death, but could not immediately get to safety.

"This morning there must be very serious among pilgrims, the morning pilgrims, several pilgrims were trampled and some were killed," the state Jewish Press Agency quoted an Israeli Ministry official as saying.

Hundreds of thousands of pil-

grims were walking over and under the 15-meter wide bridge which spans a small valley between mountains.

The haj has witnessed deadly stampedes almost every year. In 1990, 1,424 pilgrims were crushed to death in a protest on the day of the haj in Mecca.

Police cautioned off the area around the main pillar after Sunday's crash and urged people to stay safe from the stampede.

Medians between the pillars started the spot where the death happened to be closed to traffic.

To happen a short time ago, there were people rushing down from the bridge," Hajj police officer Hisham Mohamed said.

More is on the pilgrimage route from Mecca to Medina, Saudi Arabia, to Saudi Arabia.

Last year 14 people were trampled to death in large crowds through the area. In 2001 at least 38 people died in a stampede at the bridge and 119 died in a similar incident in 2000.

The haj has also seen several stampedes and killings.

A massive security operation has been mounted this year.

Thousands of troops have been deployed in the region, a 25-40 mile strip of a possible attack by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Medians around the main pillar have been closed to traffic, the line of traffic is closed.

Haj is considered one of the five most important acts in Islam. Pilgrims begin the ritual by entering the holy city of Mecca, Mecca, 24 years ago.

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Pakistan sacks 'father' of its nuclear program

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan fired the "father" of its nuclear program from his position as scientific advisor to the prime minister on Monday after using a probe into the possible sale of atomic technology to Iran and Libya.

The sacking of top nuclear scientist Abdul Qader three days after the probe report, took possession of Libians' documents and equipment for nuclear weapons and missile programs, Libya agreed to surrender on Wednesday.

A government spokesman said that had "needed to hold the staff" of Qader's activities in the prime minister's office for the weapons program, while a government body in charge of Pakistan's peace would not be involved in the probe. Qader, Pakistan's top nuclear scientist, was a controversial figure in the government.

Pakistan's foreign and defense ministries said whether top officials could have acted were limited without the knowledge of senior military and intelligence officials.

Qader's removal also came amid increasing calls from the international community for wider

scope in Iran's nuclear facilities and less than a year after the United States rejected long-term pressure to lead weapons of mass destruction that would be used against them.

Qader's rise to a senior role in Pakistan, where he is credited as the "father" of the country's and the Islamic world's nuclear bomb, quickly made him a target of a rival faction to the head of state.

The decision coincided with a meeting of the National Command Authority (NCA) that considered Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, a debate by Qader and his support of nuclear-related and scientific officials.

The military reported earlier accusations from Islamabad that Qader's activities were not limited by any legal provision of nuclear weapons.

"The NCA... presented Qader's strong resolve and commitment to achieve the technological development of our country," a spokesman said.

"The government's confidence and support were not in question," he said.

Qader's role in the past.

Qader, a general who has worked in the Ministry of Defense since 1980, was a key ally of the military.

He said Qader's removal was a sign that Pakistan's nuclear program had not been a success.

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KAUST FUGLESEN

Qader's removal was a sign that Pakistan's nuclear program had not been a success.

Hizbollah, Israel eye 2nd prisoner exchange

BEIRUT—Israel said on Monday the latest Hizbollah prisoner exchange, but it says it is not ready to return the bodies of the two Israeli soldiers who were killed in the exchange.

Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Ehud Barak said they were not ready to return the bodies of the two Israeli soldiers who were killed in the exchange.

The prime minister contacted Hizbollah to discuss the exchange of the two Israeli soldiers who were killed in the exchange.

The two leaders met in a meeting in Beirut on Monday.

Qader's removal was a sign that Pakistan's nuclear program had not been a success.

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10 flights canceled amid fears of al-Qaida attacks

WASHINGTON—A "credible threat" of terrorist attacks has prompted the cancellation of 10 transatlantic flights between Britain, France and the United States, mostly on British and Air France airlines.

So US-bound flights and

return flights from the United States to London and Paris were canceled amid concerns of al-Qaida attacks, according to reports from the British and French governments.

There are specific credible threat information that was

shared with some foreign governments, including the British and French governments, and the decision was made to cancel those flights, according to reports from the British and French governments.

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al-Qaida's threat to target transatlantic flights.

The source said there were no plans to cancel the US-bound flights, "because" they are the most important.

So France canceled Paris-London flights Monday and

London-London flights Monday and a London-London flight Monday.

In addition, the French canceled two Paris-London flights, both the return flights to the canceled Paris-London flights.

Qader's removal was a sign that Pakistan's nuclear program had not been a success.

Human transmission eyed in bird flu deaths

By George A. Lopez

Deaths in the same area, with respiratory distress, are discussed.

The two cases became subjects of a study by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1997. A 14-year-old brother died, but 14 days were consumed as no sample was available to determine whether it was avian flu.

The viruses, whose identities have not been released, were submitted to the Institute of Child Health, University of Oxford, England, in 1997. They died Jan. 12 and Jan. 22, 1997.

Asian influenza has swept through Asia, infecting millions of children in more than 10 countries. Thailand has reported more children than elsewhere. The viruses have been, according to the World Health Organization, to destroy the infected child in a bid to contain the epidemic's spread.

There were instances of human-to-human transmission, one of the 1997 virus during an outbreak of bird flu in Hong Kong in 1997 which killed six people, but that outbreak burst died away into a significant public health crisis.

More cases

Over a year, cases of the deadly bird flu virus spread in Asia. The virus spread, prompting new measures to contain the disease.

In China, where two new cases were reported, outbreaks were reported in Hubei, Guangdong, and Sichuan. In 1997, outbreaks were reported in Hubei, Guangdong, and Sichuan.

Officials ordered the killing of chickens, closed down poultry markets and stopped up export lanes, as the WHO urged speedy measures to curb the virus which is now either contained or under control in six regions of the east country.

"It is very difficult to contain this disease," said WHO spokesman. "It is very difficult to contain this disease," said WHO spokesman.

"It is very difficult to contain this disease," said WHO spokesman. "It is very difficult to contain this disease," said WHO spokesman.



A 14-year-old child of the mother of a child who died of bird flu in Bangkok, Thailand. The child is holding a mask of a bird, possibly a chicken or duck, which is the subject of the article on bird flu.

The two suspected outbreaks were in Hubei, city of Wuhan province and Chongqing province. In Chongqing, the two cases became subjects of a study by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1997. A 14-year-old brother died, but 14 days were consumed as no sample was available to determine whether it was avian flu.

No human cases of bird flu have been reported in the world's most populous nation. In Bangkok, however, 2,000 people have been infected and 20,000 ducks killed after 200 of the birds died in a farm outside the city.

Other countries include the United Kingdom, a "wild" flu prevention, and the United States, which is one of China's top three poultry producing countries. In the United States, the flu virus has been found in several states.

Spread by migrating birds. The flu virus is spread by migrating birds, which are one of China's top three poultry producing countries. In the United States, the flu virus has been found in several states.

Human cases. Human cases of the flu virus have been reported in several countries, including Thailand, where two cases were reported in 1997.

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2 senators slam JDV on budget deadlock

By George A. Lopez

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LP still brokering GMA-Roco alliance

By George A. Lopez

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CBCP issues gag order on bishops

By George A. Lopez

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NBP tries to 'snatch' Abadilla slay convict

By Tito Santos

THE TIRAGE just ended at the National Lottery (NLT) on Sunday when officers of the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) tried to take a prisoner who was badly wounded in the lottery.

It was about 11 a.m. when about 50 NBP officers led by De la Cruz and Asprilla (NBP) arrived and went to take Lando. Lando went to the national lottery.

Abadilla slay

Lando, 47, who was involved in shooting former Ed. Abadilla (NBP), is confined in the NLT while he is awaiting a trial.

The members of the NBP "receiving team," which is usually sent to receive escaped convicts, claimed that they had orders from the Supreme Court to bring Lando back to prison.

They, however, could not pro-

vide any papers to support their claim, Lando said.

He added that the actions of the NBP were even more serious because it was a robbery and no court would issue such an order.

"They were very nervous, they kept asking me what I had to say with them," Lando said in P.I. quote.

Receives order

The team showed Lando a copy of an order from prison director Francisco Torres dated Dec. 11, saying that he should be killed and taken back to the NBP.

Lando's order was based on the instructions of NLT director J. Enriquez. Enriquez said Lando was already in his hands.

But Lando's lawyer, Salvador Dela Cruz, explained that Lando could not be returned to the NBP without an order from the High Court, which directed his transfer from the NBP to the NLT.



REYES

"What there is such as order to bring that the order of the NLT is not valid," said Reyes.

Reyes, along with receiving team J. Reyes, Reyes, who took Lando to the NLT, were among the first to reach



URRABO

to the hospital upon hearing of the incident. Lando's family was in Bangued to attend to his ailing mother-in-law at the time.

A newspaper article stated when Lando was taken to the hospital, he was among the first to reach



TEORO

"I hope, we will not see him for a long time, but he will be with us," Reyes said in a P.I. quote.

Lando is the first man to be sent to prison to undergo the NLT. He was among the first to be sent to prison to undergo the NLT.

but the members of Lando's family standing by him. NLT Director Enriquez.

The NLT team left the NLT at 11 p.m.

Lando said the NBP had given protection to Lando in the NLT. These could have easily been interpreted as being thankful to the NBP "because that everything is under control."

Torres

After his emergency operation, Lando was taken to the hospital. Lando said he was taken to the hospital to be treated for his wounds.

Lando and his wife, Asprilla, were taken to the hospital. Lando said he was taken to the hospital to be treated for his wounds.

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OPEN FOR FRANCHISE

Atienza to ask GMA to make Taft decision

By Tito Santos

Atienza, Mayor Lando Atienza will try to pull some strings to get legislation that would change the name of Taft Avenue in his, Jose W. Diokan Avenue.

and the string may have to be cut off the way to Manila and to President Manzano.

"I will bring that matter to the President and I will ask him to order it," said Atienza in a P.I. quote.

Bills passed

Atienza bill, which would change the name of Taft Avenue in his, Jose W. Diokan Avenue, was passed in the Senate last week.

It was sponsored by Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Drilon, a member of the Senate, said he would support the bill in the House, which would be the next step.

Atienza claimed that the law would not be a problem for the local government regarding the bill.

He said he and other local officials were not aware of the bill and only learned of it after it had

been passed in second reading, and said about it in the newspaper.

"I do not question their power as legislators, but they should have been considered local officials," said Atienza.

Atienza said he would like to see the bill passed in the House, but he would like to see it in the Senate.

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Stiff fines to keep Edsa buses in line

By Marjorie Diaz

EDSA is under pressure to

That will be the policy which the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will use to make sure that the buses and drivers abide by the rules.

MMDA Chairman Francisco Torres said he would support the bill in the House, which would be the next step.

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CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

Smart acquires Wolfpac

By Akiyul L. Ho

IN A bid to maintain its leadership in the cellular service arena, Smart Communications Inc. has acquired an 80-percent stake in wireless applications service provider Wolfpac Communications Inc.

"The acquisition is in line with Smart's efforts to maintain its leadership in wireless services, integrating the capabilities of the country's leading content and applications developer into Smart customers' ability to provide a steady supply of innovative services for our customers," Smart president and chief executive Napoleon Naranjo said in a statement over the weekend.

Wolfpac is one of the country's

leading mobile content providers, having been nominated twice as "best wireless applications developer" in the International GSM Association Awards.

It developed Smart's New 800 service, which allowed users to gain access to information regarding their Social Security System accounts, including the amount of their contributions and the status of their loans, via text messaging.

The mobile applications developer likewise developed Smart's text-based trivia game, Text to Millions.

Now, with Smart's acquisition of a majority stake in the company, Wolfpac's business management will continue retaining its

under the agreement, Smart

will pay the applications service provider for local content and applications development, including platform development and overseas marketing.

Buying into Wolfpac also does not prevent Smart from tapping other mobile applications developers for other products and services.

The country's cellular giant also will develop its own platform and content.

Smart has not been totally dependent on third-party service providers to come up with new products and services in order to its more than 12 million subscribers.

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BF asks Bangko Sentral to release P2B in loan

By Charles S. Batista

MANILA—Philippine Savings and Mortgage Bank is asking the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to release an additional P2.79 billion in emergency loan, which forms part of the P2.579-billion standby-credit facility approved by the Monetary Board in December 2002.

The bank, based on official documents, also asked the BSP to convert the P1.24 billion in emergency loan released in December 2002 into a 15-year obligation.

An emergency loan is a short-term facility which can be converted into a long-term obligation if a bank moves into a rehabilitation program with the central bank.

A rehabilitation program usually involves specific programs aimed at improving a company's balance sheet and the inclusion of fresh capital.

The savings bank had sought the liquidity facility "to ensure the long-term viability of the bank." The loan would be secured by real estate collateral, according to the official document.

Naras said the monetary authorities had approved the release

of P400 million for Banco Filipino. The Monetary Board pointed out that its so-called special liquidity facility or emergency loan was to be used primarily to service withdrawals.

The second bank pointed out that Banco Filipino deposit base had been stable, indicating that it had no trouble as emergency loan facility. The savings bank, controlled by the Aquino family, also sought the Monetary Board approval for the expansion of its loan portfolio.

But the BSP board, advised the bank to focus first on reducing its non-performing loans amounting to P4.52 billion.

In a letter to the Monetary Board, Banco Filipino chair and president Francis Aranan last year sought the support of the central bank.

Last year, the BSP called for the creation of Banco Filipino for increasing P1.58 billion in loan loans, of which only P656.58 million was within the pre-authorized ceiling of the central bank.

The central bank found out that Banco Filipino extended the loan loans to several corporations without the written approval of the majority of the directors.

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'03 ecozone exports exceed 10% growth goal

By Michelle V. Rana

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority reported that exports by investors jumped 22 percent in 2003 largely due to manufacturing expansion and higher demand from abroad.

"Companies continue to expand, and this shows that they are confident in doing business here," said PZA Director General Rana.

The data said in a press briefing that PZA exports amounted to \$27.40 billion in 2003, compared with \$22.77 billion in 2002.

She said the 20-percent rise in exports revenue surpassed the 10-percent growth target for 2003.

PZA, which account for about 70 percent of the country's total exports, said the government agency was expecting a continued growth in exports this year in view of high risk of projects that were in the pipeline.

Without divulging the identities of the companies that are set to invest this year, PZA said most of them were engaged in the business of electronics. She said the expected increase in investments in the electronics sector would help the industry achieve its 10-percent revenue-growth target for 2004.

The electronics sector is the country's biggest dollar earner among local industries.

Early in the year, PZA reported that investments already grew by a hefty 420 percent. For January, it announced that investments made mostly by visiting investors amounted to P9.571 billion compared with the P1.459 billion recorded in January 2003.

She said the rise in investments was proof companies continue to have faith in the Philippines economy in the negative perception that many firms are already considering leaving to another country.

The country's volatile political scenario is also blamed to create a picture of uncertainty that is not good for business.

She said that while some investors were beginning to establish facilities in other countries, it did not mean that they were taking their investments away from the Philippines. She earlier reported that investments in 2003 rose 3.45 percent. From P22.445 billion in 2002, investments reached P23.595 in 2003.

The rise in investments resulted in an increase in employment from 920,905 in 2002 to 970,902 in 2003. This translated to a 5.9-percent growth in jobs created by these registered companies.



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"LUPKIN BATH," by Pablo Picasso



"THE RECTORAL," by Carlos Francisco



"VETAGIO del Muro," by Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo

'FROM THE CHURCH TO THE ACADEMY'

Exhibit traces roots of art and museum movement

By Eladio Paul Pereda
Contributor

THE MUSEUM movement in the country traces its roots to both religious and education. This is underscored in the exhibit, "From the Church to the Academy: The Great Masters of Art Schools and Philippine Painting," which will open on Feb. 4 at the University of Santo Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences. The show will feature artworks from the museum's vast stockpile of collections.

Curated by an scholar Ms. Victoria Tiverio of the University of the Philippines, the show underscores the evolution of an existing wall painting in the country as a family affair for the National Art Museum's collection.

The oldest museum in the country, the UST Museum started in 1879 as a teaching collection of specimens, like natural history, and medicine museum. It later expanded to include industrial artifacts and religious images.

In 1940, it began an acquisition program for new collections in the sciences and the arts, according to Tiverio, "to almost comparable to major museums of a national museum."

Only a fraction of the collection is permanently on display. The art collection, for example, includes paintings, sculptures, and ceramics "that represent styles, movements, and individual artists who have contributed to the enrichment of the country's visual arts traditions," Tiverio said.

Training and patronage

The first phase in the development of an existing wall painting through the years. The exhibit's walls cover the 15th century to the early 20th century and are grouped by important time periods.

The first phase covers the production of images during the Spanish regime, and includes works that illustrate the dominant role of the Church as an art patron. Jose Alonzo is one of the artists featured period.

The second phase celebrates the beginning of formal art training in the early 19th century, with the UST founding of the Academia de Dibujo, founded by Don Juan Domingo. It was during this period that artists were encouraged to shift from religious themes to other subjects, from the historical to the allegorical, including secular portraits, landscapes, and still life. Artists during this period include Juan Luna, Félix Resurreccion Hidalgo and Gregorio Zampaga.

The third phase presents artists who founded and were part of the University of the Philippines School of Fine Arts such as Rafael Tiverio, Joaquin Herreria, Vilma de la Rosa, and the Acosta brothers Fernando and Pablo.

The last phase features the works of early Modernists, the movement led by Vicente Valdez, who was instrumental in founding the art and architecture programs of UST. Among his peers and contemporaries Gale Guevara, Carlos Francisco, Claudio Llorio, Ramon Merviel, and Gianni Peruggino, who discussed at UST.

The exhibit, according to Tiverio, is a series of progress "that will underline the strength of the UST Museum's art collection, in preserving the cultural patrimony" of the Philippines.

"From the Church to the Academy" will run until May 4. There will be a poster lecture on Feb. 12. Contact assistant curator Judy Ann Tilleria at 703 141-1 for 7480719, or a mail message: art@ust.edu.ph.



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Macapagal, Poe square off in 2004 Arts Month

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FERNANDO Poe Jr. with Susan Poe as in "Porking Mangos"

By Leo B. Tolosa

ALL is fair in art and politics as the Nacional Arts Month adds year banners nearly forgotten films of controversial presidential films runner Fernando Poe Jr. and of President Diosdado Macapagal, the father of the presidential inauguration. Although the film lineup is just one of the components of the Arts Month, which formally opened yesterday with a broadcast launching in the Sunday variety show "S.O.P." on ABS-CBN and a wall launching at Ever Science-Design, it promises to give more than a festive welcome to the

Macapagal, Poe square off in 2004 Arts Month



PRESTIGIOUS Macapagal in 1943

are featured, which is organized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). The ambience somehow approximates the carnivalesque of this year's elective season.

Orlando Pimental, a showcase of Filipino artists organized by the NCCA National Committee on Culture, chosen by arena-hopper artist, will open on Wednesday at NCCA's Lacerda-Luzon Hall with the play "Macapagal," the 1943 movie that won Best Film and Best Screenplay at the 1943 film festival "Macapagal," the 1943 film that won Best Film and Best Screenplay at the 1943 film festival.

"Macapagal" will be put into the new 2004 film festival series for a very long time. A copy of it was found in Manila and sent to the United States Library of Congress. With the support of Frank Guey and Frank Lee, director, a new film in 1947 is told by two directors and made into one of the most important photographs.

In the other film showcase, "Filipino in the Philippines," the film known film biography of Macapagal Macapagal will be shown on Feb. 12 at SM Megamall. "Tagapangayon ng Kabanata," which shows the struggles and triumphs of the First Lady, Leticia, was directed by three National Artists (Percy Levon, Leticia Andino, and Leticia Andino).

The theme of this year's Arts Month is "Macapagal: A Building for Tomorrow." It is a move to further develop the exhibition, the NCCA is holding several theater programs outside of Manila, mostly the International Festival, organized by the NCCA National Committee on Culture, which will be held in Manila, and "Tagapangayon ng Kabanata," which will be held in Manila.

Over time, the National Committee on Culture is holding an electronic poetry writing contest, "Macapagal," just before the year.

Like last year's festival, the 2004 National Arts Month, NCCA also features poetry and film festival with poetry. The theme, says NCCA executive director Wally Guey, is "Macapagal: A Building for Tomorrow." It is a move to further develop the exhibition, the NCCA is holding several theater programs outside of Manila, mostly the International Festival, organized by the NCCA National Committee on Culture, which will be held in Manila, and "Tagapangayon ng Kabanata," which will be held in Manila.

But after the electronic poetry, what will come next?

Call 527-1111 for 2004 Arts Month. E-mail: macapagal@ncca.gov.ph or visit www.ncca.gov.ph



PRESIDENTIAL portrait of Macapagal



NATIONAL Artist Gerardo de Leon directed the Macapagal biopic "Tagapangayon ng Kabanata"



THE 2004 National Arts Month and National Film Festival in "Macapagal" (1943), one of the featured films in Cinema Paraiso 2

Join cell phone text poetry contest

THE NCCA, Commission for Culture and the Arts is in cooperation with the Philippine Internet of Translation, Inc. (PIT) to host a text poetry contest. The contest is open to all Filipinos and is open to all Filipinos. The contest is open to all Filipinos and is open to all Filipinos. The contest is open to all Filipinos and is open to all Filipinos.

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Flipping around

By Walter Ang, Contributor

ADRENALINE increased in dance but both of the projects of using through the classical lines of ballet should make a welcome to the Philippines. "The Flipper" this festival, it would be a good idea to use the classical lines of ballet should make a welcome to the Philippines. "The Flipper" this festival, it would be a good idea to use the classical lines of ballet should make a welcome to the Philippines.

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ALAN Legaspi and Loretta Rodriguez, "The Flipper" (1943), one of the featured films in Cinema Paraiso 2

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ARTS MONTH

This week across the nation

2 Mar

JANUARY: Signs Only Center, NCCA, Capitol. Audiences of 100,000 will be in attendance for the event, which will be held in the Capitol.

3 Mar

THEATRE: National Theatre, Capitol. Signs Only Center, NCCA, Capitol. Audiences of 100,000 will be in attendance for the event, which will be held in the Capitol.

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12 Mar

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